

**General Meeting – June 8, 2011**

Update on Obama Health Care Reform Law with Dr. Michael Cousineau

**President's Message:** by Karlo Silbiger

Since the early 1900s when California voters implemented the statewide initiative process, our state has

systematically used this progressive reform to weaken the power of our elected officials. We instituted the recall holding politicians accountable. We instituted the 2/3 rule for increasing taxes and passing budgets forcing Sacramento to find consensus in all fiscal matters. And more recently, we took away the power of our elected representatives to draw political district boundaries, instead turning that over to an independent redistricting commission.

Democratic leaders, including our Club, opposed the redistricting reform because of the potential to create more moderate seats and the equal representation of Democrats and Republicans on the commission. However, the voters overwhelmingly disagreed, boiling over with frustration after decades of gerrymandering and the creation of so many safe seats

that November elections had become almost meaningless in California.

Regardless of our individual feelings about the 2011 redistricting process and its merits, it behooves us as active citizens to become involved to ensure that Culver City's interests are heard as the lines are drawn. Our city currently sits right on the border between 3 assembly districts: the 47th to the east (which includes Ladera Heights and View Park), the 41st to the north (which includes Santa Monica and Malibu), and the 53rd to the west (which includes Mar Vista, Venice, and the South Bay). It is quite possible that Culver City could end up with representatives with whom we are unfamiliar.

The good news is that the process has become more open with this redistricting reform. Instead of lines drawn by the politicians and their political advisors behind closed doors, the redistricting commission has been holding hundreds of public hearings to gather testimony from all those who want to be heard. On Friday, June 10, the commission will (See **President**, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
**7:00 PM Wednesday,
June 8, 2011**
6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room
Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and
Culver Blvd.

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Club Notes

Renew your membership!
Please use the form on page 4 to supply your renewal information.

Electronic Newsletter:
Submit your email address to Info@CCDemClub.org and ask to get the newsletter by email!
Save a tree and save our club the postage!

Join the Culver City Peace Vigil: Show your support for ending the war in Afghanistan every other Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel.

Comments expressed in the Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Culver City Democratic Club.

(**President** from Page 1) release their first draft of maps for congressional, senate, assembly, and board of equalization districts. The following week, on Thursday, June 16, they will hold their very first public hearing on these lines right in Culver City (City Hall, 6:00).

We must take advantage of the opportunity to educate the commission on those unique characteristics which make up our community and how that should factor into our placement. At our June meeting, we will be spending some time better understanding the redistricting process and brainstorming the types of comments that each of us could make on the 16th. I know that the activists within our club will not let this opportunity go by without having our voices added to the public record.

At our June meeting we are also proud to bring in Dr. Michael Cousineau, a member of the Culver City community and an expert on public health, who will be giving us an update on the Obama health care reform and its implementation throughout the country. As we gear up for the important 2012 elections, redistricting and health care will be a significant part of the debate. Come be informed.

Report on May's Meeting

by Meghan Sahli-Wells

The Culver City Democratic Club's May meeting featured a panel discussion on one of the most pressing issues of our time: energy policy. The B.P. oil spill, the Fukushima nuclear meltdown, increasing record-breaking weather, and ongoing wars in oil-producing countries

have created a "perfect storm" of energy-related events..

Around 40 attendees listened and asked questions of the speakers from local, national and international environmental groups. We introduced the topic by showing the short film "300 Years of Fossil Fuels in 300 Seconds" narrated by Richard Heinberg of the Post Carbon Institute. The film shows that in the span of just a few human lifetimes, we have become completely dependent on fossil fuels with disastrous effects on human health. It asks the question, "Where do we go from here?"

Exploring the energy policy problem from different angles, the panelists provided various answers to this question.

Panelist Brian Treanor:



After pointing out the technological challenges of meeting today's energy demands without adding carbon to the atmosphere,

Director of Environmental Studies at Loyola Marymount University Brian Treanor said that political action is the key to combating climate change.

Panelist Dr. Jimmy Hara:



Dr. Hara, Vice-President of Physicians for Social Responsibility recounted his family's experience as victims of the atomic bomb. A physician, he has extensively studied the science behind both long and short-term nuclear radiation. He underlined the dangers of nuclear arms and energy, letting audience members

Annual Independence Day Picnic:

Celebrate Independence Day with the Democratic Club on Sunday July 3rd. Please join us between 11am - 3pm at Syd Kronenthal Park, 3459 McManus Avenue, Culver City

This family-friendly pot-luck celebration has been a Culver City Democratic Club tradition for as long as anyone can remember. The Club supplies charcoal, plates, utensils, watermelon and cold drinks.

decide for themselves whether or not California's nuclear reactors on active fault lines are worth the risk.

Panelist Michelle Weiner:



Michelle Weiner is the director of Transition Culver City which seeks community-based solutions

to the problems of climate change, peak oil and economic instability. The Transition movement began in England and has spread worldwide, teaching communities to become less oil-dependent and better equipped to meet their own needs. Michelle led a lively group exercise asking audience members to explore what they would miss and what they look forward to in a world with less oil.

Panelist Evan Gillespie:



Evan Gillespie, Regional Representative of the Sierra Club and leading organizer of the L.A. Beyond

Coal campaign spoke of the challenges and the (See **May Meeting**, Page 3)

(**May Meeting** from Page 2) considerable successes of the movement to drive energy policy away from heavily CO2-producing coal toward cleaner sources. Its goal: to stop the current 39% of coal-generated energy in Los Angeles by 2020 and to stimulate green jobs while pursuing large-scale renewable energy projects. Many thanks to the excellent panelists and also to the audience who asked great questions and shared their knowledge on the issue.

Culver City Needs a Motion Picture and Television Museum

by Darryl Cherness

As residents of Culver City, we take great pride in our city's motion picture and television heritage. This, more than anything else, defines our community and distinguishes us from other cities throughout the nation. After all, it was here, in Culver City where the Wizard of Oz and Gone with the Wind were filmed. It is here, in Culver City, where Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy are taped and broadcast throughout the nation, to be viewed by millions of American households.

Given our city's rich history as a motion picture and television center, you would think that our community would go "all out" to promote our history and let the world know about our past. Unfortunately, this is not the

case. We, as a community, have done very little to promote our heritage. We have the "Filmstrip USA" sculpture in front of the Veteran's Memorial Building, the Culver City Historical Society Archives and Resource Center that is open 4 hours a month, and is the best kept secret in town; and, of course, our City motto: "Heart of Screenland." That's all we have. We can do better.

Culver City needs a full time, full fledge motion picture and television museum. Such a museum would put Culver City "on the map" and bring thousands of tourists to our city; tourists who would patronize our downtown restaurants, stay at the Culver Hotel (thus generating bed tax revenue), and watch plays at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

The beauty of the museum is that it would generate multiple sources of revenue for the city. Not only would it bring additional business to downtown, but it would also generate revenue on its own. For example, the city could impose an entertainment fee on the admission to the museum. If the museum had a gift shop selling motion picture/TV memorabilia, the city would receive a portion of the sales tax revenue on each sale. There would be bus tours to the museum, and the operators of those tours would pay a business license fee to Culver City.

Where would the museum be located? Right next to Trader

Joe's, in downtown, there is a big, empty lot known as "Parcel B." What better location is there than that?

Culver City has a vast, untapped resource. Let's use it!

More on Dr. Cousineau from LACHamber.com

Michael R. Cousineau is Associate Professor of Research in the Department of Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine at the USC Keck School of Medicine. His research focuses on access to care for the low income uninsured population, operation of safety-net providers including public hospitals and community health centers; and health needs of homeless people. He has studied the impact of initiatives designed to expand health insurance to adults and children, the dynamics of insurance coverage decisions by small businesses, alternative governance of safety net hospitals, and the health and mental health needs of the homeless. His publications appear in American Journal of Public Health, Medical Care, Public Health Reports, Evaluation Review and the Journal of Community Health.

2011 Club Officers and Committee

Chairs:

President: Karlo Silbiger
President@CCDemClub.Org
First Vice President: Bill Wynn
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org
Second VP: Meghan Sahli-Wells
SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org
Treasurer: Eric Fine
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Recording Secretary: Sylvia Moore
Corresponding Secretary: Lee Welinsky
Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg

Web Editor: Brian Pogue
Webmaster@CCDemClub.Org
Newsletter: Greg Valtierra

Renew Your Club Membership for 2011!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal for the coming year. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership. Dues are due by January 1, 2011.

For questions please call Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2011.
Dues for 2011 are due by
January 1, 2011. Current
dues must be paid by
renewing members before a
vote to get a ballot at the
general meeting. New and
lapsed members must have
paid dues at least 25 days in
advance to vote at a meeting.

Culver City Democratic Club
P.O. Box 4254
Culver City, CA 90231-4254

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June 8, 2011 - Meeting Program:

**Update on Obama Health
Care Reform Law with Dr.
Michael Cousineau**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, June 8**

**Monthly General Meeting:
Update on Obama Health
Care Reform Law**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Karlo at
(310) 202-7255 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday, June 18**

Monthly Board Meeting:

9:00 AM at the Camarella/Jayne's
home. All members welcome.
Call Bill at (310) 253-9046 or
email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Sunday, July 3**

**Annual Club Independence
Day Picnic**

11 AM - 3 PM at Kronenthal
Park. Bring your own meat to
grill and any sides you may want
to share. Public is welcome. Call
Karlo at (310) 202-7255 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, July 13**

Monthly General Meeting:

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Karlo at
(310) 202-7255 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

Culver City Democratic Club
Application/Renewal Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

I declare that all the individuals listed for membership are registered Democrats.

Signed: _____

Membership Dues: Dues may be waived for financial hardship

Member \$30

Student \$20

Supporting Member \$75

Sustaining Member \$125

Additional Contribution: \$_____

Please make your check payable to:

Culver City Democratic Club

P.O. Box 4254, Culver City, CA 90231-4254

For questions please call Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg at
(310) 398-5328

Please renew for 2011 if you haven't already done so.

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year.

Renewals are due by January 1, of each year.